

A Shy Lover

By Percival Dallas

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He was a remarkably bashful young man, and some of the smart set delighted in playing upon his susceptibilities, but somehow from the first Jessie Dorr liked him. She told her sister so one day.

"There is more in Morton Bristol than you think, Della," she declared. "In a crowded parlor he is uncomfortable and sensitive. A common blunder at croquet or tennis is so magnified in his over-conscious nature that he is ready to sink into the ground; but mustn't he have a gentle, refined mind to deprecate self-importance and shrink from offending others? He does not take encouragement for familiarity and talk one to death on some pet hobby, or try to show off. He is sensible, sympathetic, with a love for truth and simplicity that is quite winsome."

"You always were queer in your notions, Jessie," said Della heartily.

"If queeress consists of despising sham and frivolity, maybe I am," acknowledged Jessie. "It is refreshing, though, to find a young man who is not so full of himself that he is most of the time a bore. I shall cultivate Morton Bristol."

"For his own sake?" propounded Della skeptically.

"Solely," replied Jessie with definiteness, but there was present an almost imperceptible accent of defiance which told her worldly wise sister that there was an undercurrent of more than friendly interest in her championship of Bristol.

Brought up in a strictly home life, the Junior of four sisters, Morton Bristol was no wise effeminate, but a certain repression was the result of his home environment.

When he set about seeking to win this sterling jewel of womanhood Bristol did not know how to begin. He was all humility as to his opinion of his own merits, and analyzed his natural backwardness critically. He was uneasy and undecided for a week after he had resolved to approach her on the subject. He thought of trusting to a preliminary epistolary attack, but the letter he wrote seemed crude, weak and presumptuous. Then a propitious moment seemed to have arrived at dusk one evening, when he and Jessie had been strolling about the beautiful Dorr gardens.

"What a lovely evening," Jessie said. "Shall we rest here for a few minutes?" and set the example of occupying a hammock. Her gentle gracefulness, the mellow moonlight, the flower-perfumed air seemed to surround an ideal situation where love might speak and favorable influences encourage its reception.

They talked casual nothings, but all the time Morton's heart was in his mouth; suspense, eagerness, uncertainty controlled him in turns. Then he took courage, as his hand touched a dainty little box in his pocket. It contained an engagement ring. Its presence gave a purpose to the occasion which would raise him above the clouds.

"I—I wanted to show you something," he muttered up self-confidence enough to say. Had not Jessie's eyes met his own just at that critical moment, he might have blundered through his oration somehow. He flattered at meeting their full glance, trembled, became confused, and drew out his gold-handled pocket knife, stammering faintly: "A gift from my sister; pretty, isn't it?" Then both arose as a bevy of girls appeared, dragging them bolsterously to the house to give them some music for a dance.

Morton Bristol went home that night very much depressed. Jessie had been so gracious to him and the conditions had been favorable for telling his lame, hesitating but heart-treasured story; and he had been an arrant coward! It was the next morning that, in changing his attire, he found the box containing the ring missing from his pocket. He became anxious and excited as he concluded that it must have been somewhere about the Dorr place that he had lost it.

Jessie had been puzzled, and disappointed, too. She took a book the next morning and went out into the garden, selecting the hammock to rest in, to read, to dream. There, lying cozily in its sagging center was a tiny, dainty white pasteboard box. She opened it. The thrill was delightful as she recognized it as an engagement ring; her lovely eyes sparkled the brighter as she read inside her own initials and those of Morton Bristol. She slipped it on her finger, "just to see how it looked."

"I beg your pardon," an unexpected voice aroused her, and there stood Morton. "I lost something here, I think, last evening," he blundered on confusedly, and thought I would stop on my way to the office and see if—that is, I—"

"Is that it, Mr. Bristol?" inquired Jessie, archly, and guessing all, guessing right, she daintily extended her faintly, bejeweled finger.

"Oh!" voiced Bristol, with dazzled eyes and ecstatic soul. "You—you found it, and—and—"

"Can I keep it?" questioned Jessie gently.

"Oh! will you—will you, indeed?" stammered Bristol incoherently. "I love you so that if you will I shall float, I mean swim in happiness."

"Don't do that," whispered Jessie shyly. "Be sensible and sit down comfortably in the hammock and tell me all about it."

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But the Kansas City Railway Company is always on the look out for bright, intelligent, willing workers—men who want to advance.

We can always find a place for the right man in our transportation department. Wages are high and the work is pleasant. Our last wage increase became effective just over a month ago. The present rate is as follows: 1st 3 months, 50c; 2nd 9 months, 52c; 2nd year, 53c; 3rd year and over, 55c; one man cars 55c to 60c. Minimum guarantee, \$110 per month. If you are the right man we welcome you in our happy family—over 2000 motormen and conductors. Write us today, W. W. Stevens Supt. of Employment, Kansas City Railway Company, 2nd floor 15th & Grand, Kansas City, Mo. 22t3

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Pursuant to ordinance No. 437 of the city of Monett, Missouri passed and approved on the 3rd day of August 1920, the undersigned will receive sealed bids until 2 o'clock p. m. August 12, 1920 for furnishing all tools, labor and materials for and excavating, filling, grading and preparing foundation therefore and graveling the roadway portion of Eighth street, in the city of Monett, Missouri from the north curb line of Broadway street thence north to the south curb line of Cleveland avenue street with creek gravel.

Said work to be done in accordance with plans, estimates and specifications on file in the office of the city clerk. Work to be paid for in special tax bills against the abutting tracts, or parcels of land liable for the same. A certified check for fifty (\$50.00) Dollars must accompany said bids, which will be forfeited to the city of Monett in the event the successful bidder fails to enter into contract and bond with good and sufficient security within ten days from the date of the award.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the City Council on the 12th day of August, 1920 at 2 o'clock p. m. The council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

JAMES JOHNSTON,
City Clerk.

FOR SALE

Three dandy level corner lots with over 20 bearing fruit trees and about 90 grape vines loaded with grapes. Will sell all on good terms or the crops for cash. A bargain for some one. Have moved away and can't look after same. Might consider a good car. Chas. R. Jordan, 2310 Picher Ave., Joplin, Mo. 25t6

Mrs. A. G. Baird and mother, Mrs. Beckley, of Hannibal, Mo., are here to spend the remainder of the summer with Mrs. George Miller.

20 per cent discount on all straw hats at Gulick's. 02t1

Dr. M. L. Ingram Dentist, office over Tutt & Osborns. Phone 518. 8t1

A paid up policy is like money in the bank. M. J. Hale, International Life. 77t1

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The Monett High School

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Monday, September 6, 1920

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Finis E. Engleman, Principal
Alice B. Meador, Teacher Training and Latin
Arabelle Foster, Home Economics
Mae Donohue, History
Nellie Mills, Commercial Subjects
Doris E. Owen, English
John Swinnle, Mathematics
Edward V. Holstine, Science

All teachers are specialists. Strong courses in all departments. \$1,500 spent this year for Home Economics equipment. Athletics a specialty. Literary activities encouraged.

Classes will be open to non-resident students. Tuition rates and other information on application to
GUY H. CAPPS, Superintendent.

New Produce Co.

We will open a Produce Business in the old King Location. We will pay highest Market Price for all kinds of produce.

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Notice To Public

Announcement No. 3 of Change to Cash Basis

After having adopted the cash system, there can only be one rule that must apply to every one alike. We positively will not break this rule for anyone and trust you will not ask us to do so.

ALL MERCHANDISE MUST BE PAID FOR BEFORE BEING TAKEN FROM THE STORE. All goods taken out on approval must be paid for before they leave the store, and if returned in good condition at the time agreed upon, money will be refunded promptly.

All mail orders, not accompanied by sufficient amount of cash to cover cost of goods and postage, will be sent C. O. D. by mail or express.

All merchandise selected and held for purchaser must have at least one-fourth of its value paid down in cash to insure us that it will be called for.

In making this change in business methods to meet existing and modern conditions, we do so with the hope that our patrons will co-operate with us to the end that we can better serve you and place in your hands dependable merchandise at a minimum cost.

We will at all time share with our customers the great savings that the change to this new system will make. We ask your assistance in carrying out this plan and assure you in advance of our sincere appreciation for your kindly help

Tutt & Osborn Clo. Co. Inc.

The Largest Clothing Store in Southwest Missouri Doing a Strictly Cash Business

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For that Monument you need to have erected this fall. Our prices are right for Quality, Size and Value. We are expert workmen and guarantee all work

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